Undergraduate Work Term Assignments

Fourth or Fifth Work Term (APSC 410 or APSC 411)

Career Planning Assignment (APSC 410/411 - Option 1)

Objective
Having completed several co-op work terms by this point, you should have a clearer picture of where you see yourself after graduation compared to when you were embarking on your very first co-op work term. The summation of all of your experience to date has afforded you insight into aspects of careers that you might enjoy, as well as those that do not appeal to you. This assignment will allow you to reflect on your experience and ideate on potential career paths you wish to pursue for future co-op work terms or post-graduate employment.

Instructions
Answer each of the following questions (max. 200 words per answer, except question 1 which has a max. 400 words). Support your responses with properly cited research as needed:

1. What is your desired career path post-graduation? Are there particular industries you are interested in or do you have a specific type of role in mind? What about the size of company? Does it align with your core values? Does this career path align with where you want to be in your career in 5-10 years?
2. Are you extroverted or introverted? How has this affected your work performance to date and how do you think this will impact the type of job you will seek in the future?
3. Does the career path you are currently interested in offer a lot of room for personal challenge and skill development, as well as long-term career growth?
4. What is the job security in this career or industry like for the next 5-10 years? Are there any major economic factors that might adversely affect job prospects in this field?
5. How relevant are you to your desired career path/industry at this time? Are your skills and experience in line with what the market is seeking, or is there additional training, self-directed learning, professional development opportunities you can seek out that would give you a competitive edge?
6. What kind of autonomy and control do you want over your career and day-to-day work? Will this impact the type of company you explore working for?
7. Where are you willing to live? Think about the factors of an area that contribute to your personal long-term happiness such as access to outdoor areas, thriving nightlife, energetic culture, walkability or commute time, proximity to family, etc. Are the careers or industries you are interested in available in these type of areas?
8. What aspects of a potential career will contribute to your long-term job satisfaction, or in other words, what would make you happy to go to work every day?

Submission
Submit your completed assignment as a pdf on Canvas on or before the deadline outlined in the Work Term Checklist (http://pd.apsc.ubc.ca/engineering-co-op/current-students/undergraduate-checklist/).

Grading
Your Career Planning Assignment will be assessed as follows:

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<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>Articulate, interesting, and engaging responses that convey your unique career path to the reader in fully developed and easily read answers; content is thoughtful, researched as needed, and thorough; free from any grammatical or spelling errors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Well-written answers speaking to your career path and self reflection; content is thoughtful and researched as needed; little to no grammatical or spelling errors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>Answers may contain a few grammar or spelling errors. May not read well or engage the reader, but still communicates valuable insight into your career path; content could be more fully developed and researched more thoroughly.</td>
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<td>Unsatisfactory</td>
<td>Multiple grammar or spelling errors; unclear or unreadable; responses are not full sentences. Little to no research demonstrated and responses are neither thoughtful nor thorough.</td>
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Objective
The objective of the Newsletter Article Assignment is to provide you with an opportunity to share your co-op experiences with junior students in the co-op program, as well as to reflect on your co-op experience. As a senior level co-op student, you now have the opportunity to provide mentorship and advice through your article. Articles can be written on a variety of topics, including but not limited to:

- What is your unique co-op story? How did you get to where you are today?
- Insight into your current co-op employer’s unique corporate atmosphere, work culture, operations, etc.
- Summary and advice on what it is like to work in a camp, remote or international location for a co-op work term
- Tips and advice for students relocating for a co-op position
- Reflection on skills gained from your first co-op term(s) that have served you well in your co-op career
- Summary and advice on how you maximized the networking opportunities in your previous and current co-op positions
- Reflection and advice you would give your younger self when searching for your first co-op work term

How to Begin
Select or determine a topic relating to your co-op experience that you would like to share with the junior engineering co-op students. Try to think back to when you were a junior student and the advice or information you would have liked to read at that time. Personalize your article by writing in your own unique voice, and feel free to add a photo or yourself or interesting photos you took during your work term.

Introduction
Tell the reader about yourself, your work term, company, and so forth.

Body
Typically 3-4 paragraphs in length detailing your co-op experience and sharing advice with students who may be following in your path

Conclusion
Summarize your article, reflect on the key points and/or reflect on how your experience has shaped your future plans

Photo
An optional aspect of the assignment, photos help your reader engage in your article and help the reader feel more connected to your story. Photos must be your own original images and can be of yourself, interesting things from your co-op position, or even fun photos of the area if you travelled for your co-op position.

Note: For confidentiality purposes, you must omit company names when referring to previous co-op terms. See the submission section below for further instructions.

Select articles will be shared with current co-op students primarily via student newsletters (email). It may also be published on the co-op website, archived for future use, and/or shared via social media such as LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc. Submission does not automatically guarantee the article will be shared.

Submission
The Newsletter Article Assignment will be graded and stored internally by the Co-op office, and as such, does not require a release form at this time. If your article is selected to share publicly, the Co-op office will contact you to request a release form be completed. Any reference to employers/supervisors other than your current employer must be in generalities only and cannot contain specific names, titles, companies, etc. (I.e., “In my past experience working in the oil & gas industry...”). Please see the work term checklist for specific deadlines (http://pd.apsc.ubc.ca/engineering-co-op/current-students/undergraduate-checklist/).
As this assignment is intended to provide mentorship to other co-op students, if your supervisor deems your article confidential you must revise the article to omit confidential information or change your article topic so that the assignment can be deemed non-confidential and submitted to the co-op office for grading and possible sharing with other students.

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